

Parent News

19/08/2021

Dear all

I hope you are well and are having a lovely Summer.

I am very much looking forward to joining the Ryecroft community and meeting parents and children as Executive Headteacher. As you will be aware, we appointed Mr Hall to the role of Head of School at Ryecroft in the Summer term and I would like to thank him and other members of the senior team for the work which has taken place over the summer holiday. Thank you also to all the staff involved in the Summer School and with the site work which has taken place.

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 5 students into our school community and to meeting Year 8 Ryecroft children as they join Thomas Alleyne's High School. For any students who are moving on to other new schools; we wish them all the best for their future.

Summer school events this year have included 2 Summer Schools which 39 children attended. These events, which were overseen by Mr Hall, were led by our staff from Ryecroft; my thanks go to Mrs Blues, Mrs Hurdman, Ms Kelly, Miss Wanford and Miss Bailey. I hope all students involved enjoyed the experience.

The site and ICT teams have completed a range of work on the site. Thank you to Mrs Evans, Mrs Halsey and Mr McKenna for co-ordinating this.

Start of Term dates reminders

Wednesday 1st September

Staff Inset Day

Thursday 2nd September

Year 5 induction day and Year 7 (a.m.) and Year 8 (p.m.) LFT Testing Day

Friday 3rd September

Whole school opening

Thursday 2nd September Lateral flow device test days: Y7 and Y8 pupils

Students should arrive through the main gates at school at the pre-booked appointment time. If not already booked this can be done using the following link:

Y7 Pupils: <https://ryecroft.schoolcloud.co.uk/clubsevents/admin/events/106489>

Y8 Pupils: <https://ryecroft.schoolcloud.co.uk/clubsevents/admin/events/106494>

Pupils will be met by staff who will direct them to the testing area. After their test, they will need to return home. We ask that parents socially distance and either wait at a local carpark or at the school gates. Test results (which

take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly via the NHS using the contact details provided on the google form. We will only contact families if their child tests positive.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thursday 2nd September Year 5 arrival

When Year 5 pupils arrive on site, between 8:30 and 8:50, they will be met by the senior team and directed to the playground adjacent to the Hall, where they will be greeted by their form tutor. They will then attend their form period. They will receive their timetables and an induction session with their form teacher. We would ask that pupils bring along their chatter boxes which they will be using in the first few days. Throughout their first day, they will be supported by staff.

Friday 3rd September: School open for all pupils

On arrival on site, pupils will be met by Mr Hall and Mr Bardon and directed to their registration room.

Any KS3 pupils whose parents or carers have given permission for them to undertake a LFT but were unable to attend for testing on the Thursday will be directed to the Main Hall.

Times of the school day

Please see below the planned times of the school day.

Session	Start time	End time
Start of day	8:30 – School gates open	8:50 – all pupils should be on site
Registration	8:50	9:15
Lesson 1	9:15	10:15
Lesson 2	10:15	11:15
Break	11:15	11:30
Lesson 3	11:30	12:30
Assembly	12:30	12:50
Lunchtime	12:50	01:40
Lesson 4	01:40	02:40
Lesson 5	02:40	03:40

Uniform

We thank parents for your support with our uniform policy. Uniform information, including requirement for PE, can be found in the parents' section of our school website: Correct uniform must be worn at all times

Covid 19 update – key school information

Sanitising

We will continue to provide sanitiser in each classroom and at key points around the school. Please encourage your children to use the sanitiser.

LFT testing in school prior to reopening

Parents and carers of Y7 and Y8 pupils will have had details regarding the booking of an appointment time for your son/daughter to attend for their LFT test. It should be a very quick and straight forward process.

LFT testing following reopening

Year 7 and 8 students have been asked to continue testing at home twice a week when we reopen. Results should be uploaded to the NHS site.

Face coverings

Students will still be asked to wear face coverings on school buses and public transport. Currently, the guidance is that these will not be required in school. However, if an individual wishes to wear a face covering, that remains a choice they can make. We will follow Local Authority guidance if we need to adapt this policy during the year.

Phones

If your son or daughter needs to bring a mobile phone to school it must be switched off on arrival on site and handed in. Each Registration Class will have a dedicated box for phones, pupils should place their phone in their named envelope before placing it in the box. After registration, the phone box will be taken to the School Office for safe keeping. At the end of the school day pupils should collect their phones from the Office.

The School takes no responsibility for the loss or damage of mobile phones brought onto its premises

Bubbles/split breaks

We are no longer asked to keep students in bubbles and therefore the normal day can resume.

School notification

If your son or daughter tests positive for covid19, please notify test and trace and email the school office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

Please see further details regarding contact tracing at the end of the newsletter.

Further questions

If you have any questions regarding the start of term, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Hall at mrhall@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk or myself at rudge@tahs.org.uk

I look forward to meeting you and your children over the course of the year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rudge

Executive Headteacher

Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings for COVID-19

As you may be aware, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap went ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that schools will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 case. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

Self-isolating and taking a test if your child has symptoms or a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test:

If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform us of this. You should then immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of the household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform us. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to us.

Contact tracing

If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test.

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

- 1) From 16 August close contacts who are fully vaccinated or those under 18 will not need to self-isolate.
- 2) All close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test
- 3) Individuals identified as close contacts will not need to self-isolate while they are awaiting the results of their test.

- 4) If the PCR result is positive, the individual must self-isolate and NHS Test and Trace will work with them to identify any close contacts.

Frequently asked Questions

How will a child or young person know what is meant by 'close contact'?

NHS Test & Trace will contact those who test positive – or their parent or legal guardian – to identify close contacts. They will ask a series of specific questions to help the individual understand what is meant by a close contact, making it easier for them to be identified. Contacts in an educational setting would only be traced if the positive case specifically identified an individual as having close, prolonged contact.

What does a close contact have to do?

From 16 August, anyone identified by NHS Test and Trace who is fully vaccinated or under-18 will be advised to get a PCR test. They do not need to isolate while awaiting the PCR result. Adults who are not fully vaccinated must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of last contact with the positive case.

How will school know if a pupil or member of staff has tested positive?

Pupils, students and staff members who record a positive LFD or PCR test should let school know. Individuals who return a positive LFD result will need to self-isolate immediately and order a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days and is negative, the individual no longer needs to self-isolate. If the PCR result is positive, the individual must self-isolate and contact tracing will be conducted by NHS Test & Trace.

Contact Tracing Journey

In education and childcare settings

IMPORTANT: if, at any point, a student, pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), order a PCR test and self-isolate.

